



Trailblazer Foundation Year-End Update

“The two most important things Trailblazer provided were the school, and clean water and wells. Sras Village did not have a school until Trailblazer came. Now, many of the students who started at the school Trailblazer built are starting high school. The village health has also improved noticeably. Before they had no clean water. Now they have clean drinking water, and better sanitation. Trailblazer also helped initiate the Village Fund, which is still going, and is very successful. The families are better off financially. Most used to eat just one meal a day, now they have three. All these improvements are thanks to Trailblazer.”

Suy Kin, former chief of Sras Village, the first village Trailblazer collaborated with in 2005



We at Trailblazer Foundation must admit, it feels great to read Suy Kin’s words about how our efforts have helped the people of Sras Village make their way from survival to sustainability. During the last eleven years, we have supported more than fifty villages in Cambodia’s Siem Reap Province.

We have partnered with these villages in one or more of the following projects: digging wells to access water, constructing water filters to purify that water, building latrines for better personal hygiene, providing trainings on best agricultural and aquaculture practices for growing their food, constructing new schools for the children, and/or helping launch locally managed micro-loan programs, so villagers can get the capital they need to start or grow a business.

For 2016, we are on track to construct and deliver 450 water filters, and drill 100 new wells. We also built a new school for 480 students, provided agricultural trainings to 100 villagers, conducted capacity building trainings for five micro-loan Village Funds, and helped construct a handful of latrines. **In total, Trailblazer’s products and services during 2016 will have directly benefited 4,235 people.**

In 2017, we expect to provide the same number of wells and water filters, build another school, and significantly increase the number of agricultural and capacity building trainings we provide, and latrines we build. Also, we will launch a Farmer Community Group, which will sell crops raised by villagers to local markets in Siem Reap City. As well, we will collaborate with a women’s development center, to enhance the Center’s infrastructure, and its marketing and sales of textiles made by its trainees. **In 2017, we expect our products and services will directly benefit 5,280 people.**

Health Program

“Before our trip to Cambodia in early 2016, we reached out to Trailblazer Foundation to see how our family could help a village in need. We donated a well and a water filter, and Trailblazer’s team took us to see these products, and meet the people who benefited from them. Our 8 and 9 year-old daughters learned first-hand the importance of clean water as a basis for improving living conditions throughout. They understand now that with clean water, everyone is healthier. Healthy parents can provide for their families, and healthy children can go to school, get an education, and get better jobs. We were so moved by the community and the great job that Trailblazer is doing that we donated more wells after our visit. We are proud to be participants of Trailblazer’s program.

--Todd and Victoria Thiessen (Florida, USA)



2016 Program Highlights

- ❖ Established a robust traveler-as-donor funding relationship with the international travel company Abercrombie & Kent and its tourism guests.
- ❖ Purchased two new work trucks, one each for our well drilling team and water filter team, with the generous support of Friendly Planet Travel and its clients.

Food Security Program

“My farm was not good before the Trailblazer agricultural training. I could only get low yields, because my knowledge about planting was terrible. I did not know how to prepare the soil, produce a seedling, and control the weeds with integrated pest management. Now, it is wonderful! I can get high yields, and my farm has a lot of types of vegetables like herbs, eggplant, and long beans. In addition, now I can plant in both the rainy season and the dry season, because I know how to plant the vegetables.”

--Yung Young, a 2016 graduate of Trailblazer’s agriculture trainings



2016 Program Highlights

- ❖ Increased the number of villagers we trained from 20 individuals in 2015, to 100 trainees in 2016. The vast majority of our trainees were women.
- ❖ Expanded the types of trainings we offered from just oyster mushrooms in 2015, to include trainings on soil management, horticulture, raising poultry, and fish farming.
- ❖ Organized some of our trainees to use their expanded knowledge to grow more vegetables than they need for their families, so they can sell their extra crops through our new Farmer Community Group (see Economic Development Program on next page).

Education Program

“The British School Foundation has been supporting Trailblazer projects for almost 10 years. During that period, we have helped fund six new school buildings. We continue to support Trailblazer’s school projects for the same reasons we chose to do so in the first place: [1] the projects are driven by the communities themselves; [2] the projects are sustainable in the long term, thanks to a memorandum with the Cambodian government that incorporates the schools into the public school system; and [3] the vast majority of the funds we provide end up in the communities for which they are destined.”

--Stewart Fry, British School Foundation



2016 Program Highlights

- ❖ Secured funding for our 2016 school construction project from the international British School Foundation, and a much smaller fundraising team of four U.S. youths that goes by the name of Four Girls for Families.
- ❖ Trailblazer not only paid for the construction of the new school itself (which will serve 480 students), we also covered the cost of all the desks, chairs, and whiteboards for each room.
- ❖ Sret Village, the recipient of our 2016 school, proactively chose to invest \$3,000 in the construction project, to highlight their commitment to the new school.

Economic Development Program

“The thing I most enjoy about these trainings with Trailblazer is working with poor people that need our help to improve their life, by producing food they can eat and sell to the market. Now, they want more help from Trailblazer, because of the new ‘Farmer Community Group’ project, which will help farmers find local markets and restaurants where they can sell their crops.”

--Yang Bunthim, Agricultural Specialist with the Cambodian Government (and Trailblazer trainer)



2016 Program Highlights

- ❖ Enlisted three university interns from the United States to conduct a feasibility study that guided the development of a new *Farmer Community Group* project, which (when launched in 2017) will provide an initial 30 rural farmers (mostly women) with a market for selling their crops in Siem Reap City.
- ❖ Established a formal partnership with the local Women’s Development Center, where – in 2017 – Trailblazer will support the Center in meeting its equipment needs (sewing machines for its training graduates), and its marketing needs (promoting the availability of the Center’s textile products), so the Center can become profitable and self-sustaining.
- ❖ Provided training to the management team of five micro-loan Village Funds that Trailblazer had previously helped establish.